



RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

North Carolina: The Cost of Inaction

North Carolina Families Suffer

North Carolina insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$5,633.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$10,950.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$21,288, a 94 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 53.3 percent of projected North Carolina median family income.

More uninsured North Carolinians

- ✓ Every day, 510 North Carolinians lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 2,772,000 North Carolinians under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 34.5 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 1,547,212 North Carolinians under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 19.5 percent of the under 65 population.

North Carolinians pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ North Carolina families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,400 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in North Carolina have a combined market share of 73 percent.

North Carolina Businesses Suffer

Fewer North Carolinians have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 63.6 percent of North Carolinians under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 57.4 percent of North Carolinians had coverage through their employer.

Fewer North Carolina small businesses offer health coverage

- ✓ In 2000, 47.4 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 43.0 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

North Carolina Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, North Carolina spent \$44.3 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,191 per capita, and is 13.8 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the North Carolina economy will lose \$4.2 billion - \$8.3 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.